

About New Bedford, Massachusetts

General Demographics

- County population: 93,768
- Percent of population under the age of 18: 24.9%
- 84.3% White
- 4.3% Black or African American
- 0.7 % Asian
- 10.2% Hispanic
- Median household income: \$28,000
- Unemployment rates: Approximately 13% (the highest in Massachusetts).
- Percent of child living below poverty level: 17.3% (compared to 9.4% statewide)
- Reported cases of child abuse (in 2003): 2,278 (69% resulted in an investigation; 50% were found to be supported)

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Facts

- In 2002, the rate of alcohol and other drug-related hospital discharges was 526.8 per 100,000—68% over the state average.
- In 2002, New Bedford had 25 deaths from alcohol and other drug use—26% higher than the Massachusetts average.

Local, State, and National 30-Day Use Rates, 2003*

Grade	New Bedford	Massachusetts	National
9	18.0%	18.6%	19.8%
10	27.0%	23.0%	27.4%
11	38.0%	30.1%	31.8%
12	37.0%	38.4%	37.2%

* *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*